

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:
 - classifying the audio data based on the characteristic of the audio data; and
 - preprocessing frames of audio data selected based on the classification.
2. A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:
 - classifying the audio data based on the characteristic of the audio data;
 - in case the audio data includes monophonic sound, performing AGC (automatic gain control) preprocessing of all frames; and
 - in case the audio data includes polyphonic sound, performing AGC preprocessing of selected frames.
3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step of performing AGC preprocessing of selected frames include deciding whether a frame in the audio data includes noise signal or not.
4. A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:
 - deciding an interval of audio data that is to be encoded in a low bit rate in said codec; and
 - adjusting the amplitude of audio data of the decided interval, such that the audio data in the interval may not be encoded in said low bit.
5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the adjusting step comprises the steps of:
 - calculating signal levels of the audio data;
 - deciding smoothed gain coefficients based on signal levels; and
 - generating preprocessed audio data by multiplying the smoothed gain coefficients to the audio data in the decided interval.

6. An apparatus for providing audio data encoded by a codec having variable encoding rate, comprising:

means for deciding an interval of audio data that is to be encoded in a low bit rate by said codec; and

means for adjusting the amplitude of audio data of the decided interval, such that the audio data in the interval may not be encoded in said low bit.